

Fig. 17 is a flowchart expanding on the check request validity (step 1112) of Fig. 16 of an embodiment of the present invention. At a step 1212 the XML request received from the user system is parsed to check if it is a well formed XML document. If it is not a well formed XML document, an error code so signifying is returned at a step 1214. If it is a well formed XML document, at a step 1216 the parsed XML document is validated against the request DTD. If it does not validate, an error code signifying that the XML is not valid is returned at a step 1218. If the XML document is valid, the bitmap is then checked to determine if it is correctly specified (step 1220). If the bitmap is incorrectly specified, an error code so signifying is returned at a step 1222. If the bitmap is correctly specified, at a step 1224 the postage type and amount are checked. If the indicium is incorrectly specified, an error code so signifying is returned at a step 1226. If the postage type and amount are correctly specified, at a step 1228 the number of indicia is checked. If too many indicia have been requested, an error code so signifying at a step 1230. If the number of indicia is valid, at a step 1232 the CTID is checked for a duplicate CTID within the 60-day window. If a duplicate CTID is found, an error code so signifying is returned at a step 1232. If there is no duplicate CTID, the request is considered to be a valid request (block 1234).

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Applicants have made drawing corrections to Fig. 17, and the changes being made are indicated in red on the attached sheet.

Fourteen (14) sheets of formal drawings are also being submitted for consideration at this time.

REMARKS

The amendment to the specification at page 1, line 6, corrects an error in a priority date.

The amendment to the specification beginning on page 27, line 34, adds text describing elements 1214, 1218, 1222, 1226, 1230, and 1232 shown in Fig. 17, but